

migratory stream of moths which pass overhead. In such an interesting part of the rural countryside I imagine that the impact on moths will continue, especially on migrants. I am not aware of any study on the impact of lights on insects (but would be pleased to learn of any); however I did draw attention to powerful arc lights at Orly airport and their impact on beetle movement (Feltwell, 1967).

The main species found on the pillars were the convolulus hawkmoth *Agrius convolvuli* (L.) and the pine hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri* (L.), copper underwings *Amphipyra pyramidea* (L.) or *A. berbera* Rungs (specimens were not collected), broad-bordered yellow underwings *Noctua fimbriata* (Schreb.), angle shades *Phlogophora meticulosa* (L.), as well as various prominents, thorns and footmen. Perhaps the most interesting moths found during my very short stay were three specimens of the Clifden nonpareil *Catocala fraxini* (L.) which is an increasingly rare and localized moth in Europe (Figure 2); it is a scarce immigrant to Britain, several having been recorded in 1995.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCE

Feltwell, J. 1967. Bats, beetles and bees. *Amat. Entomologist's Soc. Bull.* 26: 13-14.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

***Helops caeruleus* (L.) (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) in south-east London.**—I was surprised to come across a single specimen of this local beetle on a wooded bank behind some derelict factories on Blackheath Hill (TQ383766; VC 16, West Kent) on 3.x.95. It was sheltering under the loose bark of a small sycamore branch, less than 25 mm in diameter, about 1.5 metres from the trunk. Although known from some urban areas, this beetle is predominantly coastal (Hyman & Parsons, 1992).

The precipitously steep slope on Blackheath Hill is in danger of collapse and several of the sycamore trees lean precariously. A few large logs showed signs of beetle larvae boring within them, but whether these trunks were fallen trees or had been dumped, together with much other rubbish and spoil, is difficult to determine. It is possible that the beetle was introduced to the site if the timber had been tipped there.

I have previously found this Notable-B beetle in sodden drift-wood washed up on the Chichester Harbour saltmarsh at West Itchenor, West Sussex (SZ7899), on 11.ii.78 and in a pile of old railway sleepers near the gravel pits at Rye Harbour, East Sussex (TQ9419), on 26.viii.81.—RICHARD A. JONES, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.

REFERENCE

Hyman, P. S. & Parsons, M. S. 1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain. Part 1.* UK Nature Conservation no 3. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. p. 415.
